



FINANCIAL AID GUIDANCE MEMO

REFERENCE: **FA 19-006A**
TOPIC: **ADDENDUM TO FA 19-006 (06 AUGUST 2018)
CHOOSE OHIO FIRST SCHOLARSHIP (COF) – PCMH MEDICAL
MEGAN JOHNSON, FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM MANAGER**
AUTHOR: **06 AUGUST 2018**
DATE: **OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTIONS 3333.61 – 3333.611**
RELEVANT STATUTE:

The Choose Ohio First Program

Ohio Revised Code 3333.61 establishes the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program as a component of the Ohio Innovation Partnership. Through a collaborative process described in Ohio Revised Code 3333.611, and serving as a component of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program operated under section 3333.61, the primary care medical student program (PCMH – Patient Centered Medical Home) provides up to 50 scholarships annually to medical students at selected institutions who meet eligibility criteria. This program is not subject to an RFP process as the institutions, maximum number of awards, and eligibility criteria are established in Ohio Revised Code 3333.611.

Choose Ohio First scholarships are student-centered grants from the state for participating eligible students to attend a university or college. As such, Choose Ohio First Scholarships are awarded to each participating eligible student as a grant to the state university or college the student is attending and is reflected on the student's tuition bill.

Ohio Administrative and Revised Codes

Throughout the Ohio Administrative and Revised Code, there are several references to the Chancellor establishing rules for various aspects of the program. The COF Revised Code can be found at: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/Search/3333.611>.

Participating Institutions

The following institutions can provide PCMH Medical scholarships to their students:

- Case Western Reserve University
- Northeast Ohio Medical University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Toledo
- Ohio University
- Ohio State University
- Wright State University

Scholar Selection

Scholars are selected each year through a scholar application and interview process facilitated by ODHE. Awards for new scholars are announced annually in September.

Number of Scholarships

There are a maximum of 50 scholarships per year, and not more than 9 at each institution. This maximum number includes new and continuing scholars.

Award Amounts & Maximums

Students receive up to \$30,000 per year, for up to four years.

Cost Share

Cost share is not a requirement of the Choose Ohio First PCMH program.

Scholarship Use

Beyond instructional and general fees, book vouchers are approved as an eligible use of COF funds. However, there must be a notification on the scholar's tuition bill indicating this use. In accordance with ORC, the entire grant must be used for scholarships, fellowships, grants, or other monetary or nonmonetary incentives to students, and not for administration.

General fees are defined as those assessed uniformly to all students and those that *do not allow* for a waiver to be offered to any student(s). For example, a fee charged to students to provide health care coverage would not be considered to be uniformly assessed if students can opt out and therefore would not be considered a general fee.

Study Abroad and Internships

Scholars are eligible for COF funding during study abroad semesters, provided the scholar meets eligibility requirements listed in the following section, the institution keeps documentation showing courses taken and tuition charges incurred at the study abroad institution, and the tuition charges are indicated on the scholar's tuition bill. The institution must keep this documentation in case of an audit.

Scholars are eligible for funding during semesters they are on co-op or internship if they are paying tuition for that semester. It is up to the discretion of the university whether they want to provide COF funding during semesters that scholars are on co-op or internship.

***Updated* Eligibility Requirements**

- COF is only eligible for those who qualify for in-state tuition and Ohio residents who meet OAC criteria: <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3333-1-10>.
- Scholar must be at least a second year medical student.
- Scholar must show a demonstrated pattern of community service prior to application and while in medical school.
- Scholar must remain in good standing as determined by the institution.
- Scholar must be enrolled in continuous, full-time enrollment, as defined by the program, throughout the duration of medical school unless otherwise authorized by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE).
- Scholar cannot be enrolled in two programs at the same time (dual-enrollment).
- Scholar must be enrolled in one of the following specialties: Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, or Geriatrics.
- Scholar must participate in identified patient centered medical home training opportunities during medical school.
- Scholar must commit to post-residency primary care practice in the state of Ohio for not less than three years.
- Scholar must accept Medicaid recipients as patients without restriction in their practice.
- If a scholar drops out of their program before completion or does not complete the three-year practice within Ohio, they must repay the scholarship.
- If a scholar drops out of their program before completion, the institution cannot reallocate that scholar's funding.

- It is recommended that Scholars maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or equivalent per the school's grading scale. If a scholar falls below this cumulative GPA benchmark, the institution must submit a Scholar support plan each term to <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org>, detailing a plan of action to bolster the scholar's GPA. A scholar support plan should include:
 - Institution
 - PCMH Medical Scholar's Name
 - Term
 - Degree Level
 - Specialty Area
 - CIP code
 - Cumulative GPA
 - Anticipated graduation year/term
 - **Notes as to the plan the institution will facilitate to support the individual scholar in raising their GPA.** This plan should indicate Choose Ohio First specific resources and may include:
 - Awareness of the current GPA and any external factors the institution is aware of that may be impairing academic success
 - Choose Ohio First specific resources including advising, peer mentoring, or success labs
 - Progress review meetings
 - Formative assessments
 - Study skills
 - Enrichment workshops
- Scholar cannot be paid out of more than one Choose Ohio First award to an institution by ODHE in any one academic year, including regular COF awards.
- Institutions will inform each scholar of scholarship requirements and events that may eliminate the availability of the scholarship in future terms or years, including lack of funding from the state and performance by Awardee.

Payment Submissions and Reimbursement

- The institution must submit the required data in the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Data and Reporting System no later than 67 days following the end of the term referenced in the data form. Any requests received after such time will not be reimbursed. ODHE will distribute funds within 60 days of receipt of a complete and accurate student data form.
- Windows for payment submission open the day after the end of each term and remain open for approximately 67 days. The COF system generates reminder emails before the opening and closing of windows. Once your window is closed, it will not be reopened and you will not be able to submit students for reimbursement. If you need to request an extension due to extenuating circumstances, a request must be made to the program manager before your window closes.
- Please be sure all student payment data (especially CIP code and degree level) are accurate and match HEI (for public institutions).

Repayments of Over Awards

If the institution has previously submitted a payment request that is greater than the amount the student was eligible to receive for that term, the institution must submit a listing of these overpayments via secure file transfer to <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org>. When the payment request for the following term is submitted, these overpayments must be reflected on the payment template as negative numbers and will be subtracted from the total payment request. The listing of overpayments must include:

- Institution
- Scholar name(s);
- Term overpayment occurred; and
- Reason for overpayment

*Note: If you are **not** including scholar SSNs, you can email the information to the financial aid program manager (mjohnson@highered.ohio.gov).*

If the next disbursement is not enough to capture the overpayments or you are not expecting a disbursement for the remainder of the academic year, any outstanding amounts owed should be sent by check to the program manager's attention and payable to:

Ohio Department of Higher Education
Office of Financial Aid
25 South Front Street - 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183

Repayment in Event of Scholar Default

If a PCMH scholar is in one of the following situations, repayment will be required to ODHE:

- Pursues a discipline outside of family medicine, internal medicine, general pediatrics, or geriatrics
- Fails to complete medical school
- Commits less than three years of primary care service in the State of Ohio

If a scholar defaults according to one of the above criteria, the institution must notify ODHE within 90 days of the defaulting action. ODHE will work with institution to identify total amount awarded to scholar, and ODHE will send an invoice to the institution for this amount. The institution must repay the entire amount of the scholarship to ODHE within 90 days of receipt of the invoice. The institution works directly with the scholar to collect the debt and interest collected by the medical school can be used to offset costs.

Program Accountability

- The Chancellor's reporting requirements for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program require each awarded college or university to:
 - Submit appropriate data to HEI and COF Reporting System according to timelines established for those reporting periods;
 - Submit an Annual Report inclusive of fiscal and performance measures, including scholar service commitment using the required template that will be sent out at the end of the academic year; and
 - Fulfill pledges of other institutional, public, or nonpublic resources and report on the Annual Report.

HEI Secure File Transfer Site

A student's full social security number should never be sent in an e-mail. Secure files can be uploaded to the following site: <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org/>. Log in to the site with your COF system username and password, and select 'Choose Ohio First' where it says 'Associate with Program'.

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Manager, Megan Johnson, 614.752.9532, mjohnson@highered.ohio.gov.